West Lancashire Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1918.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

GEORGE EDWARD SCHOLEFIELD,

M.D., EDIN., D.P.H., VICT.

West Lancashire Rural District Council, 1918.

Chairman	HENRY UNDERWOOD.
Vice Chairman	JOHN PIMBLEY.

Altcar	CHARLES HY. MILBURN.
Aughton	HENRY UNDERWOOD.
,, ...	RICHARD ROTHWELL.
Bickerstaffe	RICHARD RIMMER.
,, ...	THOMAS HEYES.
Bispham	THOMAS ASPINWALL.
Downholland	JOB SUMNER.
Halsall	JOHN HARRISON.
Hesketh	DAVID RIMMER.
Lydiate	JAMES G. BLACKLEDGE.
Maghull	JOHN PIMBLEY.
Melling	RICHARD SUMNER.
North Meols	JOHN WAREING.
Rufford	CHARLES YATES.
Scarisbrick	BERNARD H. HOLMAN.
,, ...	PETER RIMMER.
Simonswood	JAMES HAYES.
Tarleton	ROBERT LATHOM.

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Annual Report for 1918.

To the Chairman and Members of the West Lancashire Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my twenty-first Annual Report, dealing with the Vital Statistics, the Public Health, and the Sanitary work of the District during the year 1918.

The Local Government Board have again given instructions that Annual Reports shall be curtailed as much as possible.

POPULATION.—The Registrar General has supplied the figures. For the Death-rate he estimates that the population was 17,823, and for the Birth-rate 19,970.

BIRTH-RATE.—The number of Births registered during the year was 343, and after allowing for the deduction of those which belonged to other Districts, and the addition of those belonging to the District which were born outside, the net total was 346, 178 boys and 168 girls, which gives an ANNUAL BIRTH-RATE of 17.3 per 1000 of the population. This is 1.1 less than that for the previous year, and 2.8 below the average of the 10 preceding years. Twenty-three Births were illegitimate being 6.6 per cent of the total births.

DEATH-RATE.—Three hundred and twenty-five Deaths were registered as having occurred in the District, and after the usual additions of the deaths of residents outside and the deduction of non-residents the net total was 316, 153 males and 163 females. The resulting ANNUAL DEATH-RATE is 17.7 per 1000 of the population. This is 6.3 more than that for 1917 and 5.5 above the average of the 10 preceding years.

EPIDEMIC DEATH-RATE.—Excluding Diarrhœa there were nine deaths due to the principal Epidemic Diseases, four to Diphtheria, three to Whooping Cough, one to Measles, and one to Scarlet Fever. The ANNUAL EPIDEMIC DEATH-RATE is .67 that for 1917 being .26, and the average of the 10 preceeding years .67. There were three deaths due to Diarrhœa which gives a DIARRHŒAL DEATH-RATE of 8.5 per 1000 Births.

Infantile Mortality-rate.—Twenty-eight Deaths of children under one year of age were recorded which gives an Infantile Mortality-rate of 80 per 1000 Births, that for 1917 being 75, and the average of the 10 preceding years being 87. Two of these infants were illegitimate.

Following are figures which show the comparison of some of the foregoing rates with those of England and Wales.

	Birth-rate per 1000.	Death-rate per 1000.	Epidemic Death rate per 1000.	Infantile Mortality-rate per 1000 Births.
England and Wales..	17.7	17.6	.77	97
West Lancashire Rural District	17.3	17.7	.67	80

Commenting on the deaths due to some of the other diseases, Tuberculosis was responsible for 18, with a rate of .78 ; Respiratory Diseases for 56, with a rate of 3.1. Organic Heart Disease for 29 with a rate of 1.6. Cancer for 21 with a rate of 1.1.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

From the Table on page 16 it will be found that the number of cases of Infectious Disease that came to my knowledge was 674 in 505 different houses. Comparing these figures with those of the previous year, there were 374 more cases and 273 more houses, and there were five more deaths. In addition to the notification from Medical Practitioners, parents notified 131 cases of Measles, School Teachers 81 cases of Measles, and inquiry brought to light six cases of Measles and three cases of Scarlet Fever.

SCARLET FEVER.

Houses 33. Cases 49. Death 1. Removed to Hospital 41.

Tarleton suffered more than any other Township from this disease there being 22 cases in 13 houses ; there were no special features, the cases being chiefly in the months of January, March, and September, and beyond removal to hospital and exclusion of contacts from school no further measures were required.

DIPHTHERIA.

Houses 37. Cases 29. Deaths 4. Removed to Hospital 15.

The cases were in nine Townships, Hesketh having eight cases, being a continuance of the epidemic among the school children that commenced in November of the previous year. One of the Tarleton deaths occurred in Accrington.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Houses 4. Cases 4. Removed to Hospital 2.

There were no special features about any of these cases.

MEASLES.

Houses 414. Cases 555. Death 1.

This disease was prevalent from January until the end of May, especially so during the earlier three months. The disease was of a mild type there being only one death. Over two hundred cases were notified by parents and school teachers, and in each case a leaflet with instruction for manageagement was left at the house. Every Township had more or less cases.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Downholland was the chief Township to suffer from this disease, and although I considered it wise to advise the closure of the school the cases were of a mild type generally. There were three deaths.

DIARRHŒA.

There were three deaths due to this disease.

ERYSIPELAS.

Ten cases of this disease were notified, none calling for any special remarks.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-seven cases of Tuberculosis were notified, the lungs being affected in 32 cases and other parts of the body in five cases. Ten of the cases notified during the year terminated fatally.

ISOLATION AND DISINFECTION.

The usual method of procedure has been adopted.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The accommodation at the Isolation Hospital remains the same, viz :—eight beds for Small-pox in the tent hospital, and 26 for other cases. Small-pox cases can, by arrangement, be sent to the Liverpool Small-pox Hospital. There is a Thresh Steam Disinfector attached to the Hospital.

The Urban District of Croston, the Urban District of Skelmersdale, and the Ormskirk Guardians have agreements with the Council by which they can send patients to the hospital.

The following is a summary of the work done at the Hospital during the year :—Fifty-eight patients were admitted from our own district, one from Croston, and one from Blundellsands, making 60 in all. Fifty-two were suffering from Scarlet Fever, 15 from Diphtheria, and three trom Enteric Fever. Patients were admitted from the following Townships :—Aughton 6, Bickerstaffe 13, Halsall 1, Hesketh 6, Lydiate 1, Maghull 4, Melling 1, North Meols 2, Simonswood 6, and Tarleton 18.

Sixty-seven cases were discharged. There were no deaths

Eighty-three per cent of the cases of Scarlet Fever in the District and fifty per cent. of the cases of Diphtheria were removed to hospital.

The average length of residence in hospital was, for the Scarlet Fever cases, six weeks and four days, Diphtheria, three weeks and two days, and Enteric Fever, seven weeks and one day.

The average number of cases in hospital per week was 7.7, the highest in any one week being 21, and there two weeks during which the hospital was empty.

The outside work in connection with the hospital was as follows :—There were 51 journeys with the Ambulance, 96 with the Bedding Van, 562 rooms were disinfected in 125 houses. The Disinfector was used 78 times, 2454 articles being disinfected. There were 53 journeys by cycle to disinfect. Nineteen schools were disinfected.

A Motor Bedding Van was purchased, and brought into use during the latter part of the year.

From the opening of the hospital in 1897 to the end of 1918 there have been admitted 1268 cases of Scarlet Fever, 127 of Enteric Fever, 255 of Diphtheria, and 14 of Small-pox, making a total of 1664 cases, and there have been 50 deaths.

Outside during the same period the work has been 1320 journeys with the Ambulance, and 3199 with the Bedding Van; 10,681 rooms in 2781 houses have been disinfected; the disinfector has been used 3914 times and 110,448 articles have been disinfected.

Under Miss Pick's supervision the house and grounds have been kept in a satisfactory condition, the vegetable and fruit gardens having produced almost all that has been required.

BACTERIOLOGY.

Fifty-six swabs from throats and noses were sent for examination for the presence of the Bacillus of Diphtheria, seven were positive and 49 negative. Five specimens of sputum examined for Tubercle Bacilli were negative. One specimen of blood was positive to Para-typhoid reaction.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.

The following Schools were closed on account of Measles: Aughton, Christ Church and Parochial Schools, from January 28th until February 18th, Haskayne and Lydiate C.E. for the same period, St. Mary's, Bescar, February 11th to March 4th, St. Mark's, Scarisbrick, February 18th, to March 4th, Holmeswood, Rufford, March 4th to March 25th.

Township School, Scarisbrick, from April 5th to April 15th, Halsall, May 28th to June 24th, and Melling R.C. from July 15th to August 12th.

Haskayne School was closed from August 9th to August 26th on account of Whooping Cough.

During the epidemic of Influenza in late Autumn the following Schools were closed:—Aughton Parochial (mixed) and Christ Church from November 1st to November 18th, Aughton Parochial (Infants) from November 5th to November 18th, Bickerstaffe, and Mere Brow, Tarleton, from November 8th until December 9th, Bispham, November 14th until December 9th, Haskayne from November 7th to November 25th, Halsall from November 4th to November 25th, Hesketh from November 11th to 25th, Lydiate C.E. from November 20th to January 6th, Banks C.E. from November 4th to December 2nd, Banks P.M. and Township School, Scarisbrick, from November 4th to December 9th, Lydiate R.C. and Holy Trinity, Tarleton, from November 11th to December 9th, St. Mark's, Scarisbrick, and St. Mary's, Bescar, from November 6th to November 25th, Maghull C.E. from November 21st to December 9th, Rufford from November 4th to December 9th and again from December 16th to January 6th.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

Three hundred and thirty Births were notified during the year.

EXCLUSION OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL.

In case of infectious disease this procedure is always adopted in the first instance.

SCHOOLS.

There are twenty-three Elementary Schools in the District. All are supplied with water from public mains, and the Sanitary Conveniences are on the whole in good order.

WATER SUPPLY.

Eighty-eight per cent of the inhabited houses in the District are supplied with water from public service. The supply has been ample and the water of good quality.

SEWERING AND DRAINAGE.

There have been no additions during the year. The Aughton Sewage Farm has done its work satisfactorily.

DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT.

In Aughton largely by water carriage to the sewers; Tarleton a few houses discharge into the tidal river; in other parts of the district water closets discharge into cesspools. There are approximately 684 Water Closets, 30 Waste Water Closets, 400 Pail Closets, and 3,297 Privies in the District.

SCAVENGING.

This is carried out by contract in the Townships of Aughton and North Meols. In the former 5,005 receptacles were emptied, and in the latter 3,321.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are six registered and all have been found satisfactory when visited.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Three quarters of beef (affected with tuberculosis) and 36 pounds of bacon were condemned.

SALE OF FOODS AND DRUGS ACT.

This Act is administered by the County Police, and I am indebted to Superintendent Hodgson, of Ormskirk, and to Superintendent Whitehead, of Chorley, for the following information :—In that part of the District situated within the West Derby Hundred samples were taken—in Aughton 10, Bickerstaffe 3, Lydiate 1, Maghull 12, Melling 2, North Meols 8, Halsall 4, Scarisbrick 4. One prosecution for adulterated milk followed, the case being dismissed. In that part of the District in the Leyland Hundred 12 samples were taken, no prosecutions following.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

The number in the District is 50, two more than last year. Eighty-four inspections have been made. Four required lime-washing which was done on request.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS 1901 AND 1907.

Two new Workshops have been registered making 132. Two hundred and twelve inspections were made, and in seven cases want of cleanliness was found, and notices were required in three cases.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.

Practically nothing has been done under these Act. This year the work will be resumed and pushed on with as rapidly as possible.

BUILDING OPERATIONS.

I am indebted to Mr. Wignall and to Mr. Carr, the District Surveyors, for the information that during the year plans were submitted for one new house and 13 additions and out-buildings.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. E. SCHOLEFIELD, M.D., D.P.H.

On page 12 is the only Table required by the Local Government Board.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE WEST LANCASHIRE RURAL DISTRICT, 1918.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All Causes	153	163
Measles		1
Scarlet Fever	1	
Whooping Cough	2	1
Diphtheria and Croup	3	1
Influenza	31	39
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	10
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	10	11
Meningitis	1	1
Organic Heart Diseases	9	20
Bronchitis	9	11
Pneumonia (all forms)	16	11
Other Respiratory Diseases	5	4
Diarrhœa, &c. (under two years)	3	
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	5	7
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever		1
Congenital Debility, &c.	6	7
Violence, apart from Suicide	4	1
Suicide		1
Other Defined Diseases	39	33
Causes ill-defined or unknown		2

Deaths of Infants under—		
1 year of age	18	10
Illegitimate	1	1

Total Births :—	178	168
Legitimate	165	158
Illegitimate	13	10

Population :—

For Birth-rate	19,970
For Death-rate	17,823

COPY OF REPORT sent to the Chief Medical Officer of the Local Government Board on the outbreak of Influenza in 1918.

March 13th, 1919.

To Sir Arthur Newsholme,
Medical Officer,
His Majesty's Local Government Board.

Sir,

I have pleasure in giving you the following report on the Epidemic of Influenza in the above District during 1918,

Deaths due to Influenza were registered as occurring in the Epileptic Homes, Maghull, in January, March, and June, and during July there was evidence that the disease was taking on an epidemic character in some localities of the district, but generally the affection was of a mild type, and by the end of August it seemed to be passing away.

Towards the end of September there was a recrudescence and during October and November it became widespread throughout the district, gradually becoming less severe in December.

Several specimens of sputa were submitted for bacteriological examination, nothing special being noted except the invariable presence of the Diplococcus Pneumoniae.

Information gathered from the local Medical Men points to the incubation period being usually about 48 hours, though as long as seven days in some cases.

The duration of the infectivity from the commencement of the illness until two or three days after the temperature becomes normal.

Method of spread by contagion.

A previous attack seems to give some measure of protection, no second attacks being reported during 1918, but during the present epidemic I have been informed of several persons having second attacks.

In the table following I have separated the deaths in the Epileptic Homes, Maghull, from those occurring in the District generally .

DEATHS DURING EACH WEEK OF 1918.

			District.	Epileptic Homes, Maghull.
Week ending	January	5	..	.. 1
	March	2	..	.. 1
	June	1	..	.. 1
	July	20	.. 1	..
		27	.. 1	..
	August	31	.. 2	..
	Sept.	7	.. 1	..
		28	.. 1	..
	October	5	.. 1	..
		12	.. 1	.. 6
		19	.. 1	.. 7
		26	.. 3	.. 2
	Nov.	2	.. 7	..
		9	.. 10	..
		16	.. 10	..
		23	.. 16	..
		30	.. 7	..
	Dec.	7	.. 7	..
		14	.. 4	..
		21	.. 1	..
		74		18

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION.

District	1–5	5–15	15–52	25–45	45–65	over 65
Males	3	1	10	13	6	1
Females	4	4	4	14	8	1
Epileptic Homes.						
Males		1	2	9		
Females				4	2	

The administrative measures consisted in distributing freely throughout the district leaflets giving advice regarding prophyllaxis and the care of patients.

Nineteen out of the 23 schools in the districts were closed for varying periods, and all these schools were disinfected, though it is doubtful whether disinfection is of any more value than the admission of fresh air into the building.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

GEO. E. SCHOLEFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Hunter and Mr. Ainsworth have presented their usual Annual Reports showing in detail the work that has been done in their spheres during the year in the different Townships, and the following is a summary of these reports:

	Nuisances dealt with.	Inspections made.
Altcar		3
Aughton	54	63
Bickerstaffe	9	18
Bispham	1	3
Downholland	7	7
Halsall	3	10
Hesketh	10	19
Lydiate	1	2
Maghull	14	28
Melling	4	4
North Meols	20	44
Rufford	4	9
Scarisbrick	10	21
Simonswood	—	2
Tarleton	19	34
	156	262

Table showing the number of Houses in each Township and in the whole District known to be Infected during the year, and the numbers of Cases and Deaths.

1918.	Smallpox.			Scarlet Fever.			Diphtheria			Enteric Fever.			Measles.			Whooping Cough.			Erysipelas.			Puerperal Fever.			Diarrhœa.			Totals.		
TOWNSHIP.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.
ALTCAR	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	1	...	...	..	...	2	2	..	1	1	1	...		...	..	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	1
AUGHTON	...	.	...	3	3	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	98	136	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	108	146	...
BICKERSTAFFE	...	...	...	5	9	..	5	5	..	...	...	...	11	13	1	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	.	...	..	21	27	1
BISPHAM	..	..	..	...	..	...	1	1	1	...	...	..	7	12	...	.	...	..	...	..	...	.	.	...	..	...	...	8	13	2
DOWNHOLLAND	..	..	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	36	45	...	11	19	2	..	.	..	..	..	..	.	.	..	47	64	2
HALSALL	...	...	...	...	..	..	2	3	...	1	1	...	40	47	..	1	1	...	...	...	.		...	...	...	..	...	44	52	...
HESKETH	...		...	4	4	...	7	8	..	2	2		1	1	...	...	...	.	1	1	..	...	..	...	...	...	.	15	16	0
LYDIATE		...	..	1	1	...	..	...	..	..	...	.	42	66	...	...	...	..	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	69	...
MAGHULL	..	..	..	2	2	...	2	2	...	...	...	..	52	58	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	1	1	57	63	1
MELLING	...	...	..	1	1	...	...	.	..	..	..	.	9	9	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	...
NORTH MEOLS	.	..	.	1	1	...	...	.	.	...	...	...	5	5	..	2	4	...	...	..	...	..	.	...	1	1	1	9	11	1
RUFFORD	.	.	..	...	...	.	...	..	...	...	...	...	18	22		...	..	..	...	...	...	...	..	...		...	...	18	22	...
SCARISBRICK	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	.	..	1	1	...	91	136		...		...	..	...	.	..	...	..	...	...	...	92	137	..
SIMONSWOOD	...			3	6	...	3	3	...	...	..	...	1	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	7	10	...
TARLETON		.	.	13	22	1	3	3	2		..	...	1	2		...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	20	30	2
West Lancashire Rural District				33	49	1	27	29	3	4	4		414	555	1	15	25	3	10	10					2	2	2	505	674	10